

St Mary's Catholic Church

Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton

Parish Priest: Fr Bruno Witchalls
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 Parish Website (*needs updating*) : www.stmarysbrighton.com
 Hall and Cassidy Centre – Enquiries and Bookings –
 Call John Morrison on 07511 799526.



All visitors to St Mary's are most welcome to the church and to our parish

(The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878)

Parish Newsletter for 2 weeks commencing Sunday 24 December, 2017

		<u>Mass proper</u>	<u>Intention</u>
Sat	2	Vigil Mass	7 p.m. <i>Bill Walsh, R.I.P.</i>
Sun	3	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	10 a.m. <i>Fred & Ivy Carrington, R.I.P.</i>
	2	Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 Parish Mass Book p.90	12 noon <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Sun	4	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Vigil Mass p.97	6 p.m. <i>Sr Anne O'Neil, R.I.P.</i>
		MIDNIGHT MASS (Carols from 11.30pm) p.97	Midnight <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Mon	2	CHRISTMAS DAY 'Shepherds' Mass	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
	4	Gospel: John 1:1-18 Parish Mass Book p.102	12 noon <i>Michael & Gerard Stone, R.I.P.</i>
	2		
	5		
Tue	2	[Mass at St Mary's House]	11 a.m. -
	6		
Wed	2	[Mass at St Mary's House]	11 a.m. -
	7		
Thur	2	Extraordinary Form, 1962 Missal	7 p.m. <i>Private Intention</i>
	8		
Fri	2	<i>Octave of the Nativity</i>	10 a.m. <i>Fr Stephen Collins, R.I.P.</i>
	9		
Sat	3	<i>Octave of the Nativity</i>	10 a.m. <i>Marie Canneaux, R.I.P.</i>
	0	[Vigil Mass]	7 p.m. <i>Sean, Laura, Aila & Enda Armstrong</i>
Sun	3	THE HOLY FAMILY	10 a.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
	1	Gospel: Luke 2:16-21 Parish Mass Book p.109	12 noon <i>Maureen Patterson, R.I.P.</i>
Mon	0	[Mass at St Mary's House]	11 a.m. -
	1		
Tue	0	[Mass at St Mary's House]	11 a.m. -
	2		
Wed	0	[Mass at St Mary's House]	8.15 a.m. -
	3		
Thur	0	Extraordinary Form, 1962 Missal	7 p.m. <i>For the Intentions of Joe Cook</i>
	4		
Fri	0	<i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. <i>John Donald, R.I.P.</i>
	5		
Sat	0	<i>Weekday of Christmas Time</i>	10 a.m. <i>Holy Souls</i>
	6	[Vigil Mass]	7 p.m. <i>Pro Populo – for the people of the parish</i>
Sun	0	THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	10 a.m. <i>Lety Alfred, R.I.P.</i>
	7	Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 Parish Mass Book p.115	12 noon <i>Germaine Tenare, R.I.P.</i>

Confessions every Saturday 10.30-11 a.m., 6.15-6.45 p.m. & at call.

CHRISTMAS

This feast is one full of wonder for all ages. The

The Sanctuary lamp these two weeks is burning for Daniel Fernandes; **Our Lady's Lamp** for all new-born

wonder may begin for children with the gifts they receive. Later as we grow up hopefully the wonder moves to the gift that is in the manger, the divine child, the greatest of all gifts ever given to men. Everything else the world has to offer pales as nothing before the person of Jesus Christ and what he offers us. On this night and in the glow of this season we remember that God has not forgotten us. It is his world we live in and he has sent us the one who alone can give meaning, peace and salvation to each one of us. May we each renew our love and thanks to him today and may God bless each of you and your loved ones this Christmas and New Year, Fr Bruno.

infants, especially those with health issues.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you to all those who have put in so much time and effort in preparing the church and Masses for Christmas. In particular I would like to thank Joan Spells and Chris Rodrigues and their team for the beautiful flowers, David Alfred for preparing the crib, the tree (kindly donated by a parishioner) and sacristy duties, Charles and the choirs for the music, those who help with the cleaning, the ministries, the serving, and so many other things. Thank you also for all your offerings, cards and gifts this Christmas. Fr Bruno.

'A God who became so small could only be Mercy and Love' St Therese of Lisieux

PARISH DIARY

Date	Time	Place	Event	Contact
Mon 8 Jan	6.55-8pm	Cassidy Centre	WCCM Christian Meditation Group	Celia 01273 555967
Wed 10 Jan	7.30-9 pm	Church Hall	Yrs 7-11 Youth club	www.smyclub.co.uk
Fri 12 Jan	7-8.15 pm	Cassidy Centre	Echoes (3) 'Why the Church?'	Fr Bruno

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers those who need them at this time including: Jerry Alfred, Ann Chandler, Mary Connett, Paddy Cumiskey, Amy Grimes, John & Judy Harrison, Dick & Betty Morris, Liz Regan, Glenn Rodrigues, Terry Rodrigues, Joe Standen, Callum Stone, Diana Taylor, Tom Walsh, Tracey Weller & Michael Ward.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Many thanks to all who prepared and gave us a beautiful Carol service before Christmas. Many people commented on what a joyous occasion it was and a moving witness to the beauty of our Christian faith. A collection was taken for the charity 'Mary's Meals' and £478 was raised. Thank you all.

CRIB OFFERINGS

This year Bishop Richard has asked that our Crib offerings go to the **Catholic Children's Society's Arundel & Brighton Crisis Fund**. This will provide emergency grants to local children and families who have nowhere else to turn. For more details about this charity see poster in porch.

SVP CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Congratulations to Pat Peters who won the SVP Christmas Hamper Prize. In addition, £190 was raised which has gone to the local St Thomas Homeless Fund.

Video Message from BISHOP RICHARD

There is a 5½ minute video message from Bishop Richard at www.dabnet.org/news/view/33 (The Word who is Life). Recently he has been meeting in the deaneries calling us to mission. A summary of his talk to the deaneries is in the Christmas edition of the A & B News. Free copies of this are in the church porch.

Heavens Road Radio – Monday 8th Jan 2018

You can listen to Bishop Richard speaking about the Catholic Church and its work around mental health on Heaven's Road Radio via the web www.heavensroadfm.com at 9am, 3pm, 9pm & 3am or using the listen again button outside these times.

CHILDRENS LITURGY

The signup sheets for Preschool & School Age Children are now in the church porch - Just 10 slots to fill January-April.

SCHOOL FORMS

For parents wishing to apply to send their children to St Bernadette's Primary School (or Cottesmore) in September Fr Bruno will be in the presbytery to sign forms on **Friday 12th January 11am-12pm**.

The True Meaning Of Christmas

*Jesus Christ was born this day so many years before
He came a servant to the lost, though he was Lord of Lords*

*We celebrate this joyous time, reflecting on His birth
Not born in a mansion, but a stable as if He had no worth*

*He came so He could identify with the human heart of man
And gave His life as a sacrifice, offering a better plan*

*A plan that reconciles us back to our loving Father God,
Bringing hope and redemption from sins ruling, iron rod*

*For this is the only reason that we should celebrate this day,
To become focused on anything else,
would take the meaning away*

*So let's arise with joy in our hearts and share it with
everyone*

The meaning of Christmas will always be

The birth of Jesus – God's only Son © By M.S.Lowndes

MASS AT ST MARYS HOUSE

A number of the daily Masses at St Mary's House over this Christmas period are at 11 a.m. instead of the usual earlier time. There is no Mass in the parish on Boxing day or New Years day but both days there will be Mass at 11 am at St Mary's House. See over for other Mass times.

FOODBANK - Many thanks to those of you who drop items off into our foodbank box. This is an important work of charity we do. During this Christmas time remember the needy as you shop. The usual tinned goods, cereals, toiletries and at this time of year special treats I'm sure would bring smiles to some people's faces. Our foodbank box is in the porch. Thank you.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Aoife Claire Kirwan-Rafferty who became a Christian and a child of God before Christmas.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES FOR 2018

These are available in the church porch. They are £5 each and provide much useful information about our diocese. They include names, addresses and telephone numbers of priests, parishes and schools, all the diocesan agencies, a calendar for the coming year and much more.

NEW YEAR

The arrival of a new year often inspires us to take up some good resolutions. Deepening our faith and our prayer are the best and most lasting resolutions of all. A resource many find useful is the 'Magnificat' monthly booklet. Visit magnificat.co.uk for information and yearly subscription details. Another is 'A moment with Mary', a short and enlightening daily email, free of charge, to discover and love the Virgin Mary. Visit www.mariedenazareth.com/en/a-moment-with-mary/ for subscription details.

SENIORS CLUB: on a break until the New Year

The first meeting of the Seniors Club in the New Year will be on Thursday 18th January, 2-4 p.m.

'Today, as in the times of Jesus, Christmas is not a fairy-tale for children but God's response to the drama of Humanity in search of true peace' Pope Benedict XVI